

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS DO THE CHARLESTON

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I'll confess that in the first quarter of Saturday's game, I was as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. There was a game-time story of a flu outbreak, and we know how that worked for Florida in their blowout loss to SC. Tennessee's offense started out to prove that they were everything that the Heupel Hype Machine said it was. Tennessee had the league's hottest offense and were ready for a statement game. They tore through our defense in the first quarter as if they were Samford playing Florida. They'd opened the UK game with a long TD, and should have had one on us on their second play. Oh-oh, I thought. Maybe this thing's for real.

Their fan base had recovered from a slow start and the Ole Miss debacle, and they packed Neyland Stadium with a full-throated roar. We matched their first drive's score easily with one of our own. But then we fell behind a second time, and were sputtering with the ball. The Scowlmeister's mid-week gloom about the game seemed to be well-grounded. Even the esteemed prognosticator Lane Kiffin had predicted a UT win: "biggest upset of the day, Tennessee Volunteers."

Then the second quarter came, and the Vols went. By game's end—make that by the second quarter—Lanning and company had figured out what makes them tick, and shut it down. No matter how many Dawg defenders were sick or left the game with injuries, the waves just kept coming. UT got a late TD with the game out of reach, which is when most scores occur for our opponents. Otherwise, the league's next Great Offense looked like everyone else we've played this year: overmatched, outcoached, and stopped cold. No Adam Anderson? No worries, Chaz Chambliss got his first sack.

UT averages 200 yards per game on the ground; on Saturday, they amassed 55, no doubt helped by UGA's big lead and UT's shift to the pass, the only thing working for them. By game's end, the Dawgs had earned headlines like [Georgia's Mauling Of Tennessee Offense Draws Praise From Media](#). The point spread, against a red-hot team on their field, which Kiffin called before the game "a very dangerous place play,"—and he meant more than fan debris—was an unheard-of 20 points. The final difference was 24. Again, UGA took a ridiculous point spread and beat it.

The Scowlmeister had said—gloomily—in mid-week that SB4 has a few inaccurate or floating throws every game that JT Daniels would easily convert. He missed Brock Bowers on a sure-fire TD on one such throw Saturday. But he also threw a bunch of gorgeous passes, none better than the one to James Cook in the corner of the end zone. And, as the broadcasters said as they do every week, he's nifty with his legs in ways that are unique. I'm sure that most of the Dawg Nation expected Bennett start and become a Davey O'Brien Award semi-finalist, every bit as much as they expected our top wideouts in an unbeaten year to be Ladd McConkey and A.D. Mitchell.

Stetson Bennett came in originally as a 2-star walkon. The scholarship quarterback in his recruiting class was Jake Fromm. Back in 2017, Dawgnation ran a story on SB4's decision to walk on at UGA instead of playing in a lower tier conference. If you want to see how "the best unsigned player in Georgia" looked back then, [check it out](#). It's a neat story about a guy nobody thought would ever play, who believed in himself, and who loved UGA enough to give it his best shot. We're all pretty glad he did.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What is the difference between a Dan Mullen post-game presser and a funeral?

- A. At a funeral, there is love, respect, and appreciation for the dead guy.
- B. The dead guy at a funeral won't be back to die again the next week.
- C. At a funeral, the dead guy doesn't talk about how he's not only still alive, he's killing it.
- D. The dead guy at a funeral, when the priest asks, "Is there anyone who would like to say a few words about the dearly departed?" does not say, "Next question."

Answer: At least at a funeral, the dead guy knows he's dead.

DAWGMEISTER GOOD WORKS OF THE WEEK

The Weekend Forecast is offered as a free service to its readers; neither the Dawgbone nor The Dawgmeister profits financially from its publication. If you read the Forecast and want to contribute something back to our communities, please consider making a donation to this week's featured Good Works service. There are many people living in needy circumstances, and every dollar helps to support them through another day, week, month, and year. This week's featured Good Works organization is

Must Ministries

Founded in 1971 by the Rev. Wayne Williams, MUST Ministries' initial programs included a grocery bus ministry for the elderly, a youth tutoring program and outreach ministries to "alienated" young people. Since its inception, MUST has fulfilled Wayne's vision of connecting people who have a desire to help with those who need help the most. Today, MUST encompasses more than 17,000 volunteers who are continually helping MUST Ministries achieve its goal of being Georgia's most respected servant-leader. Find out how you too can be a part of the movement of Christ's call!

[DONATE HERE](#)

COVID UPDATE

The CDC has reported groundbreaking new research revealing that people who purchase health products that include Desiccant Silica Gel Dehumidifier packets may achieve total Covid immunity by removing the packets, throwing away the remainder of the contents of the bottle, microwaving the packets on high heat for five minutes, and then spreading the liquid between their toenails and toes. Waiting for the liquid to cool will undermine the effects of the procedure, so be sure to apply this potion immediately after removing the packets from the microwave oven.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ “When you find ways to get the job done, you’re a team that finds a way to get the job done.” ~Matt Ryan
- ☞ “I think Stetson Bennett has a little of me in him. I’ve been running in touchdowns for a long time.” ~Matt Ryan
- ☞ Third ‘n’ Grantham has finally left the building in Gainesville. It was a hard nickname to sustain when teams rarely needed more than 2 plays to move the chains.
- ☞ This season, it was common to hear a player referred to as the Tennessee Transfer. In a few years, tons of guys will be known as the Former Florida Commit.
- ☞ And [these are the Gator fans](#). Oy.
- ☞ [Sorry Oklahoma: No playoff for you](#). And no Heisman QB, even though you’ve got 2 guys the Lamestream Sports Media has been promoting all year.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Micah Morris is a fine young man from Camden County. “Young” in that he only turned 18 in August, 2021. “Fine” in pretty much everything else. Most Dawg fans can cite his measurables: 6’-5”, 330 pounds, which apparently is the baseline figure for playing on UGA’s OL. How about his 4.3 GPA at Camden County HS in college-core classes, or his 5.025 GPA when the computation included AP and dual-enrollment courses? His high school coach, Bob Sphire, is an admirer: “College football recruiting these days, it’s always about the athlete; it’s never about the person and the student. Well, let me tell you, Micah is an absolutely wonderful young man, and we couldn’t ask for a better representative of our school and our community. There’s very few kids that get recruited in today’s world that don’t have some warts or some black eyes or

something. This young man has never been a discipline issue, he's never been full of himself, he's never gotten crossways with an authority or a teacher, he's very coachable, he goes about his business, has a great sense of humor and he's just super smart. All he's ever been is all the things you'd want a kid to be." He can play football too, although he could get into UGA's Honors College even if he were 5'-5" and 130 pounds. He was originally a Sam Pittman guy, but made a smooth transition to Matt Luke and, as they say, all's well that ends well. Micah is looking to major in criminal justice at UGA and then shoot for graduate school, although football may interrupt those plans if he's as good as he appears to be. But let's keep the main thing the main thing: He came to UGA because it provided the best combination of sports and academics. "Eventually football will be over. A degree from whatever college you choose to go to is really what you are going to make your money off of and live off of for the rest of your life. A Georgia degree in the state of Georgia really means a lot; even outside of the state it means a lot." Indeed it does. This guy will ride that diploma as far as he can take it, and no doubt will bring honor to family, university, and country.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

This is the game where we should finally see who's #3 on the QB depth chart. Both contenders are growing their hair out, and I think BV wins that one. We'll see who takes the field after JT's turn. That will begin, and end, Saturday's drama. This one's over already. UGA ain't Florida. And Charleston Southern is no Samford. Dawgs 61, Bucs 0.

Note: Each of this week's forecasts involves a Buc, a Buck, a Tuck, or a Duck.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MICHIGAN STATE OVER OHIO STATE

The Big 10 continues to whittle down the list of contenders. I'll say that I stand with David Pollack in wondering how on earth Michigan could be ranked above MSU. But then, Alabama at #2, when some teams remained unbeaten, didn't make sense to me either; it's looking better as teams meet their makers on the field. When will the selection committee start including anonymous bloggers in the decisions? I await their call.

Meanwhile, this one's got titanic implications for the playoff. Mel's done wonders in his short time in E. Lansing, so much so that he's on everyone's short list to replace

disappointments at traditional powers. But how many times can you hop jobs before people question your devotion to Good Ole State U? Still, there's a game to play. I'll take Tucker's boys in a thriller. MSU 31, OSU 30.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: UTAH OVER OREGON

My enduring skepticism of the PAC 12 calls for another upset, one that I hope sends more California kids toward Athens. I couldn't name anybody on Utah's team, but will take them in the underdog role anyhow. For that matter, I think I know some Oregon guys, but only because we recruited them. Sorry fellas, y'all shoulda been Dawgs. Utes over Ducks, 41-35.

The Dawgmeister recommends betting in cryptocurrencies, such as Dawgmeisterbux.